UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/851,640	05/08/2001	Neil Latarche	VRTY-001/00US	3606

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EXAMINER
THAI, HANH B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2161	

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _amendment November 3, 2004_.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-22_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-22_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

1.   This is in response to the amendment filed November 3, 2004.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-22 have been considered but are moot in

view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furegati et

al. (U. S. Patent no. 5,966,704) in view of Talib et al. (US Pub. 2001/0044758).

Regarding claim 1, Furegati discloses a method of parametric group processing to

identify relevant documents, comprising:

-       forming a parametric index (parametric index 25, Fig.4A, Furegati) from an

        indexed database said parametric index using categorical attributes to reference

        a subset of elements where said categorical attributes are qualitative parameters

        (see col. 7, lines 26-33, Furegati). "Data container" (40, Fig.4A) corresponds to

        "index database";

-       specifying a first parametric group and a second parametric group corresponding

        to elements in said parametric index (see col.7, lines 28-33, Furegati).

"Contextual index elements" and "signal index elements" correspond to a "first

parametric group" and "second parametric group" respectively;

- merging said first parametric group and the second parametric group to produce

a merged parametric group (see Fig.4A-B; col.7, line 26 to col. 8, line 50,

Furegati). "Contextual index elements", "signal index elements" and "Storage

segment" (40, Fig.4A) correspond to a "first parametric group", "second

parametric group" and "merged parametric group"; and

- extracting a parametric result from said merged parametric group, wherein the

parametric result specifies a set of documents (see col. 10, lines 20-24,

Furegati). The "hit list" is the result that is extracting from searching and

retrieving the information units of documents (see col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, lines

15, Furegati).

Furegati does not explicitly disclose parametric search to identify relevant documents and

text including at least one categorical attribute. Talib discloses a method for enabling

efficient search and retrieval of products from an electronic product catalog using

parametric search techniques that are based on the specification of values for attributes or

parameters ([0010]; [0029]; [0045]; [0048]; [0052] and [0158], Talib). It would have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify

Furegati to include the claimed feature as taught by Talib because it would allow user to

efficiently search for desired document ([0034], Talib).

Regarding claim 2, Furegati/Talib combination further discloses the step of listing a parametric group and identifying said text further comprises receiving a query (([0010]; [0029]; [0045]; [0048]; [0052], Talib).

Regarding claim 3, Furegati/Talib combination further discloses the step of identifying said text further comprises receiving text search results and specifying includes deriving a parametric group from text search results ([0010]; [0029]; [0045]; [0048]; [0052] and [0158], Talib).

Regarding claim 4, Furegati/Talib combination discloses the step of mapping the text search results into the parametric index to identify a parametric group (col. 7, lines 26-33, Furegati) for subsequent parametric group processing to identify other documents ([0097]; [0107] and [0176], Talib).

Regarding claim 5, Furegati/Talib combination discloses the step of identifying said fields as bucketsets, said first and said second subsets of elements as buckets, said categorical attributes as fieldenums and said elements as including document identifications ([0010]; [0029]; [0045]; [0048]; [0052]; [0193] and [0203], Talib).

Regarding claim 6, Furegati/Talib combination discloses the step of storing said parametric index in a primary memory local to a central processing unit ([0010]; [0017]; [0189] and [0190], Talib).

Regarding claim 7, Furegati/Talib combination further discloses the step taking the union of said first parametric group and said second parametric group to produce said merged parametric group (see col. 7, line 63 to col. 8, line 5, Furegati).

Regarding claim 8, Furegati/Talib combination discloses the step of collecting document

identifications for said merged parametric group (see col. 7, lines 52-62 and col. 10, lines 20-24,

Furegati). The "hit list" is the result that is extracting from storing, searching and retrieving the

information units of documents (see col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, lines 15, Furegati). The "index

reference" corresponds to "document identification".

Regarding claim 9, Furegati/Talib combination discloses the step of forming the union of

said document identifications to produce said parametric result (see col. 7, lines 1-15, Furegati).

Regarding claim 10, Furegati discloses a method of parametric group processing to

identify relevant documents, the method comprising:

-        performing a text search to produce text search results (see col.3, line 65 to

         col.4, line 4 and lines 8-15, Furegati);

-        mapping said text search results into a parametric index to identify a first

         parametric group, said parametric index using categorical attributes to reference

         a subset of elements where said categorical attributes are qualitative parameters

         (see col.7, lines 26-33 and Fig.4B, Furegati);"contextual" and "contextual index

         subsection" corresponds to "text" and "parametric index", and the "contextual"

         search results that is mapping into "contextual index subsection"

-        merging said first parametric group with a second parametric group to produce a

         merged parametric group (see col.7, lines 33-37 and col. 7, line 63 to col. 8, line

         8, Furegati). "Contextual index elements", "signal index elements" and "Storage

         segment" (40, Fig.4A) correspond to a "first parametric group", "second

         parametric group" and "merged parametric group"; and

- extracting a parametric result from said merged parametric group, wherein said

- parametric result specifies a set of documents (see col. 10, lines 20-24,

Furegati). The "hit list" is the result that is extracting from searching and

retrieving the information units of documents (see col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, lines

15, Furegati).

Furegati does not explicitly disclose parametric search to identify relevant documents

without implementing queries in structured query language and to identify the text

including categorical attribute arranged as fields. Talib discloses a method for enabling

efficient search and retrieval of products from an electronic product catalog using

parametric search techniques that are based on the specification of values for attributes or

parameters ([0010]; [0029]; [0045]; [0048]; [0052] and [0158], Talib). It would have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify

Furegati to include the claimed feature as taught by Talib because it would allow user to

efficiently search for desired document ([0034], Talib).

Regarding claim 11, Furegati/Talib combination further discloses the step taking the

union of said first parametric group and said second parametric group to produce said merged

parametric group (see col. 7, line 63 to col. 8, line 5, Furegati).

Regarding claim 12, Furegati/Talib combination discloses the step of collecting

document identifications for said merged parametric group (see col. 7, lines 52-62 and col. 10,

lines 20-24, Furegati). The "hit list" is the result that is extracting from storing, searching and

retrieving the information units of documents (see col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, lines 15, Furegati).

The "index reference" corresponds to "document identification".

Regarding claim 13, Furegati/Talib combination discloses the step of forming the union

of said document identifications to produce said parametric result (see col. 7, lines 1-15,

Furegati).

Regarding claim 14, Furegati discloses a computer readable medium for executing

instructions by a central processing unit to identify relevant documents, comprising:

- a first set of instructions to form a parametric index (parametric index 25,

    Fig.4A, Furegati) from an indexed database said parametric index using

    categorical attributes to reference a subset of elements where said categorical

    attributes are qualitative parameters (see col. 7, lines 26-33, Furegati). "Data

    container" (40, Fig.4A) corresponds to "index database";

- a second set of instructions to specify a first parametric group corresponding to

    elements in said parametric index (see col.7, lines 28-33, Furegati). "Contextual

    index elements" correspond to a "first parametric group";

- a third set of instructions to specify a second parametric group corresponding to

    elements in said parametric index (see col.7, lines 28-33, Furegati). "Signal

    index elements" correspond to a "second parametric group";

- a fourth set of instructions to combine said first parametric group and the second

    parametric group to produce a merged parametric group (see Fig.4A-B; col.7,

    line 26 to col. 8, line 50, Furegati). "Contextual index elements", "signal index

    elements" and "Storage segment" (40, Fig.4A) correspond to a "first parametric

    group", "second parametric group" and "merged parametric group"; and

- a fifth set of instructions to extract a parametric result from said merged

parametric group, wherein the parametric result specifies a set of documents (see

col. 10, lines 20-24, Furegati). The "hit list" is the result that is extracting from

searching and retrieving the information units of documents (see col. 3, line 65

to col. 4, lines 15, Furegati).

Furegati does not explicitly disclose parametric search to identify relevant documents and

identify text including categorical attribute from fields. Talib discloses a method for

enabling efficient search and retrieval of products from an electronic product catalog

using parametric search techniques that are based on the specification of values for

attributes or parameters ([0010]; [0029]; [0045]; [0048]; [0052] and [0158], Talib). It

would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to

modify Furegati to include the claimed feature as taught by Talib because it would allow

user to efficiently search for desired document ([0034], Talib).

Regarding claim 15, Furegati/Talib combination further discloses second set of

instructions facilitate the listing of said first parametric group and second parametric group (col.

10, lines 20-24, Furegati).

Regarding claim 16, Furegati/Talib combination further discloses the step of identifying

said text further comprises receiving text search results and specifying includes deriving a

parametric group from text search results ([0010]; [0029]; [0045]; [0048]; [0052] and [0158],

Talib).

Regarding claim 17, Furegati/Talib combination discloses the step of mapping the text

search results into the parametric index to identify a parametric group (col. 7, lines 26-33,

Furegati) for subsequent parametric group processing to identify other documents ([0097];

[0107] and [0176], Talib).

Regarding claim 18, Furegati/Talib combination further discloses the step taking the

union of said first parametric group and said second parametric group to produce said merged

parametric group (see col. 7, line 63 to col. 8, line 5, Furegati).

Regarding claim 19, Furegati/Talib combination discloses the step of collecting

document identifications for said merged parametric group (see col. 7, lines 52-62 and col. 10,

lines 20-24, Furegati). The "hit list" is the result that is extracting from storing, searching and

retrieving the information units of documents (see col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, lines 15, Furegati).

The "index reference" corresponds to "document identification".

Regarding claim 20, Furegati/Talib combination discloses the step of forming the union

of said document identifications to produce said parametric result (see col. 7, lines 1-15,

Furegati).

Regarding claims 21 and 22, performing a logical operation that is independent of a

query language (see col. 6, lines 40-60, Furegati). Furegati teaches the plurality of "different

classes". Therefore, each class has to be performed independently.

Conclusion

4.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure.

1. Witek et al. (US 6,253,188 B1) disclose automated interactive classified AD system

for the Internet.

2. Woods (US 6,101,491) discloses a method and apparatus for distributed indexing and retrieval.

3. Turnbull et al. (US Pub. 2002/0103789A1) discloses interface and system for providing persistent contextual relevance for commerce activities in a networked environment.

5.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh B Thai whose telephone number is 571-272-4029. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 571-272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hanh B Thai
Examiner
Art Unit 2161

January 26, 2005

UYEN LE
:A;RY EXAMINER